

FACE DANCES

People dancing with their face to music they know and love.

FACE DANCES are video portraits of people listening and dancing with their face to a piece of their favourite music. Each Facedancer chooses their own music. The variety of people – performers and non-performers of all ages, gender, and background – and the variety of music chosen, makes each **FACE DANCE** unique – some are very still, some are animated, some self-conscious, some confrontational, some wacky.

FACE DANCES are both a moving piece of public art and a way of culturally mapping and getting to know the people of a particular area.

FACE DANCE projects are custom built around particular neighbourhoods, venues, social or work groups.

CONTEXT AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

There is often a lack of communication between different communities living on close proximity. **FACE DANCES** draws on the simple fact that everyone listens and responds to music. The music and the people vary but listening and responding to music is universal. This act of listening to music and the response it triggers is the subject of **FACE DANCES**.

Everyone reads faces. The face is the first place you look in order to read someone's character. Faces simultaneously reflect a person's uniqueness and the commonality between people.

The idea and the subject of **FACE DANCES** is immediate and direct. The **FACE DANCES** on video play with conscious and unconscious movement. Performance and non-performance. Very few people have fully conscious control over their facial movements. Faces reflect the consciousness of the individuals. In people's choice of music to **FACE DANCE** to, there is much information, but the real material is in the flickers of facial muscles that reflect passing thoughts, feelings and anxieties and the way people manage themselves whilst listening to music.

It is a myth, a patronising myth, that work that is made for a wide audience has to appeal to a lowest common denominator, on the contrary; the attempt to make work that does not rely on easy cultural referents, deepens and enriches the work. **FACE DANCES** is both an accessible work and also works on a deeper more idiosyncratic, individual level tapping into the everyday virtuosity of all people's ability to respond to music and read other people's faces.